

RECEIVED



ALBION is a journal of postal Diplomacy, edited and published by Don Turnbull, 6 St. George's Avenue, Timperley, Cheshire, England.

Game fees for all ALBION games are announced at the start of such games. To non-players, subscriptions are available at 1/- per issue (British Isles and Ireland), 25 cents per issue (U.S.A. and elsewhere). Both figures are inclusive of postage.

All-for-all trade with other postal Diplomacy magazines is select but encouraged.

ALBION records the progress of postal Diplomacy games taking place within the British Region of AHIKS, or within the area covered by the British Region, AHIKS membership apart. American players may participate in certain games which run on longer deadlines than normal; ALBION 69/3, the Hyperspace variant, is such a game, and three positions are still open for players.

DIPLOMACY is a game manufactured and sold by Games Research Inc., 48 Wareham Street, Boston, Mass. 02118, U.S.A. For availability within the British Isles consult the editor. (Round Christmas time most large toy shops are stocking the game, so try locally first).

Cover by George Forster.

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We regret to announce that, due to circumstances entirely beyond the control of the ALBION staff, the Race Relations Board and the Upper Wapping Ladies Sewing Circle, this issue of ALBION is the largest to date, with no less than 32 pages plus covers. Within afore-said covers you will thus find the most remarkable collection of sheer lunacy ever assembled in composite form. Someone should lodge a complaint.

Talking of the Race Relations Board, we had thought of starting a column entitled 'It Could Only Happen In England', but decided against it. You see, the first item under the heading would recount the story of a resident of Yorkshire who advertised in the newspaper for a housekeeper. Not that there is anything unusual in that, but he specified that the applicant should be a Scot, so that he could have some porridge properly cooked. Our friends the RRB went up in the air about the advert. How dare he specify the nationality?? Didn't he realise that this was discrimination??? The matter was even mentioned in the House, that august assembly of ~~the~~ gentlemen who determine grand British social and economic strategy.

American readers may think this is a joke in the best tradition of ALBION. Not so, folks - it's absolutely true, which says something (I'm not sure what). But - it could only happen in England.

Which fills up the first page nicely. Now for the other 31.

Pleasant reading! And 3 places still unfilled in 69/3.....

New Subscribers.

I was able to blackmail some new subscribers at the regional meeting, and extract from them vast amounts of cash. Add to the list of subscribers:-

Sheila Minion, 7 Beeley Close, Allestree, Derby DE3 2PY.
Eric Slack, 26 Hartcroft Road, Bestwood Park Estate,
Nottingham NG5 5JF.

I will be printing a complete subscriber and trade list in the next issue, or the one after.

I have also had a request for information from a writer in South Africa; his letter follows:-

Dear Mr. Turnbull, . . .
I read your letter in DIPLOMANIA 26 with great interest. Recently I became a Dip fan and in fact I am playing in QAC being run by Don Miller. However as you can well imagine this is proving a trifle expensive, what with all mail being by air.
You are the first UK Dip fan I've heard of, and I wonder - is there any organised postal Diplomacy activity in the UK? Magazines etc? If so, can you put me in touch with them? Play through the UK would perhaps be much cheaper. Diplomacy is almost totally unknown in S.A.

.....
Well, Mr. Ackerman, you have written to the right place. We have postal Diplomacy in the UK via ALBION, although I wonder whether the word 'organised' applies? I sent you a reply to your letter on November 27th, enclosing also a copy of a recent back issue of ALBION. Unfortunately my wife sent this by surface, instead of by air, in error. Therefore you will get this issue by air, plus a copy of the letter I sent before. Hope you are interested in joining us in Hyperspace.

Accounts.

I collected a bit of cash here and there at the regional meeting, and hope I have not forgotten anyone. As I see it, this is the state of affairs for the two current games.

John Munro has not paid the extra fee for 69/1; everyone else has. Afraid that I will have to extract cash from John's postage account to make up part of the deficit. John - this is the last issue of ALBION you will receive; you also owe me 2/4d. please.

So far I have only received one game fee payment for 69/2; this is from Bob Thomas, who has paid the game fee plus 3/- for back issues plus 6 issues postage.

I hope I have the facts right here - perhaps someone else paid for 69/2 at the regional meeting, and I forgot to note it. Please advise if you feel you are being twisted.

American Subscribers.

To date, ALBION has been sent to Bob Johnson by Printed Matter airmail or Small Parcels airmail; Bob has then distributed the copies from Whippany. The single exception has been John McCallum in Canada, who has had copies direct from me, it being thought that this would be better than a re-mailing arrangement via New Jersey.

Discounting trades, which go to Don Miller, Rod Walker, Terry's Kuch and John McCallum, we have the following subscribers in the U.S.A.

Dick Holcombe. * Paid 1 dollar.

Bob Johnson. *

Jeff Key - sorry, this is a trade: delete from here and add to the trades list above.

George Patton.

Charles Wells.

Names marked with a *; I think we will soon be trading with Bob and Dick, for Diplodeur and Pacific Diplodeur respectively. Therefore I can't comment on their subscriptions until the details are sorted out.

Similarly, Charles and I have some financial messings-about to sort out, since I owe him for copies of Lonely Mountain, he owes me for back ALBION copies etc. etc. Again we'll leave this one until details are clear.

Finally, George Patton is probably going to be playing in 69/3, when it starts, and therefore will be getting a game fee over to me soon. He can add to this the amount he now owes for back issues.

The postage bill for Airmail, by whatever method, is getting rather large, and I don't really think we can stand the strain for much longer. Therefore I propose the following:- All trade copies of ALBION will go by surface mail, commencing with the next issue.

All subscriber copies will go airmail, unless the subscriber concerned tells me that surface will do.

George's copies will continue to go airmail, since he will soon be participating in 69/3. The same is true of Bob Johnson.

I hope this is a fair and equitable plan. Certainly I must cut down on the cost of overseas postage, and this seems to be the best way to do so. I would welcome your comments on these proposals.

Sorry to keep changing the system, and hope you don't mind the new arrangements.

Christmas mail being what it is, it might be January before this issue gets across the Atlantic. With this strong possibility in mind, the entire staff of ALBION wish to send their very warmest greetings to our American subscribers, with good luck and good cheer for Christmas and the New Year.

New Magazines, New Formats.

Everything seems to be changing nowadays, including the ~~Blonde~~
~~across the top~~ *A A*

HEM the magazines of Rod Walker and Jeff Key.

Rod Walker is now publishing again, after the recess caused by his removal to southern California. However he is not just producing EREHWON, but a composite issue, with the assistance of other fellow publishers. My latest copy consists of:-

BERESOVIA editor Rod Walker.
BLEFESCU editor David May.
COSTAGUANA editor Conrad von Metzke.
EREHWON editor Rod Walker.

The whole is published under the encompassing title NUMENOR. The first page of this new publication contains the following recommendation:-

"We heartily recommend this journal as an enthusiastic supporter of the moral and ethical virtues championed by the Borgia family for generations". Joan II.

Rod - I hope we still trade on the same basis? One rubbishy ALBION for the composite NUMENOR?

Jeff Key has also made some changes. Originally he edited THE VOICE. Now he has expanded, and I recently received not only the most recent copy of THE VOICE, but also new magazines entitled ANIARA and LEBOR GABALA. (Wish someone would tell me what these names mean).

As usual, I was a bit slow on the uptake, and wrote asking Jeff what sort of trade agreement we now have. Jeff replies that he will now trade LEBOR GABALA and THE VOICE for ALBION, which sounds very reasonable to me. ANIARA contains games only, whereas LEBOR GABALA is a 'general' Diplomacy magazine.

Dick Holcombe has now started in publication, and sent me the first issue of PACIFIC DIPLODEUR recently. This carries one game only at present, plus a Bourse. (Why didn't we get a Bourse going over here???) I'm not sure what Dick's plans for expansion are, but will keep you posted. The game is being played by members of AHIKS Western Region.

My bookshelf is nearly full now, and some more room will have to be found as my most modest collection of Diplomacy magazines increases in size.

One thing - I don't have to leave extra room for magazines, letters etc. from Poultron Press. For a company which is apparently in the market to make money out of games and magazines, they seem remarkably coy in answering letters or in filling orders. Isn't the new decimal coinage good enough?

As befits my new status as a regular member of the NFFF Games Bureau, I recently received a copy of THE GAMESLETTER volume 4 no. 17, which contains the following comment on ALBION.

"Opinion. We chose ALBION as the first Diplomacy gamezine to be covered in TGL because it is an outstanding example of what a good Diplomacy gamezine should be -- a small number of games, well gamesmastered, with ample space for press releases (and corresponding response from the players), and a good amount of general material, including material on rules-interpretation, reader feedback, information on what's going on elsewhere in Diplomacy, and the like -- not to mention a schedule which the GM/publisher keeps to. And ALBION, with its reprints of U.S. articles, is doing a vital service for the newly-baptized British Diplomacy audience. In fact, ALBION, although only four issues have been published to date, already ranks with the best being published in the U.S. today. (It's our favourite!) We might comment here that ALBION owes a good bit of its success to the editor/publisher's sense of humour -- as evidenced by the very clever covers based on an outline map of Great Britain. Well done, Don Turnbull."

Well, what can I say? To have this sort of comment from anyone is praise indeed, but to have it from Don Miller, who publishes, not one but many, magazines, all better than ALBION, leaves me speechless. Many thanks to you, Don, and I hope you continue to enjoy ALBION. I must add that the success of ALBION has been the result of much enthusiasm from all the readership, particularly those who started the ball rolling in 69/1. Look at the articles, for instance, the cartoons produced by Malcolm Watson, the press releases. I am merely the typist who puts into a magazine the combined efforts of these people, and without this terrific support ALBION would have died long ago.

I can't even claim the credit for the front cover; I gave a vague idea of the concept behind the magazine to George Forster, who produced the cover and instructions as to what to do with it. (??)

Players in 69/1 will find themselves listed as associate members of the Games Bureau in the above issue of TGL. The reason is simple; players in a NFFF magazine become associate members for the term of the game. There is no fee to pay (correct me if I am wrong, Don), nor need they join as regular members, although of course they will get much benefit by so doing. Membership details are on page 3 of ALBION issue 2.

Readers will know that I intend reviewing Diplomania, Diplophobia, and the other magazines produced by Don Miller in these pages. However I am reluctant to do so until the back issues of DPMA arrive - Don sent them ages ago but the post office hides its secrets well. I hope something will have happened by the time issue 10 is ready for printing.

I also want to review Lonely Mountain, Charles Wells' magazine. Charles has sent back copies of this to me, but to date I only have four, and would like to wait until the rest arrive before reviewing.

This post business is getting to be no joke. I know other people in Great Britain are wondering where overseas mail has got to. At present, on the way to me, are back issues of Diplomania, back issues of Lonely Mountain, back issues of Panzerfaust and goodness knows what else. Things were never like this over here before they got the computer in to deliver the mail. Not so attractive as the postman was, either, or so my dearly beloved tells me.....

Enough of griping. Two letters have recently been received at the ALBION offices. First, from Bob Johnson.

"Dear Albany,
Hoo boy, what makes you think I won't demolish you in Hyper-space? You know not the ways of the sneaky House of Johnson/Burgerson/?

** Rumours that the gamesmaster lives in Switzerland, and can be attacked through Hyperspace, are totally untrue. When last heard from, the ALBION gamesmaster was reported alive and well in Transylvania, living with Hypertweedle. djt**

"In my riddle, you know I dig Asimov. His robots make great gamesmasters, but I do not think the Italians would get Munich. Remember support is not cut except by an attack from the side, and Munich did not attack from the side. And I thought I was a bad GM. Shame! Arte Johnson would have to say "Goodnight, Lucy, I have seen a very boring dummheit."

** Quite right, Bob. I only answered that way to test you. (???) But, if Munich attacked Ruhr, and only the French were attacking Munich, then Miller's rule would operate, and Munich would be displaced. OK? Why not the same when more forces attack? Munich has shown its intention of vacating the space, hence should be eliminated, although no-one moves in. How about that one, then?

P.S. What's a dummheit?? ** djt

"You are doing good work on these rules problems. I would like to suggest that we keep it up, and then come out with a finalized set of rulings / clarifications that are AHIKS-recognised and used by all AHIKS 'zines. Huh?

"Please note that my reference to 'damned literate Britons' slurred you and not the fine chaps in your games.

** So that's it! Some day I must tell readers about the right honourable Winston French-Smythe, who plays Britain in Diplodorr II. This gentleman is of the old school, and wastes pages of Bob's magazines by discussing on the bad manners and un-British behaviour of the players for Germany, Italy and France. It's working, though - eh George? djt**

"New Albion (vol. 20 Page 148 of the 1960 edition of the Encyclopaedia Americana) lying between New Albany, Indiana and New Amsterdam. The name given by Sir Francis Drake (qv) in 1579 to the western coast of North America, when he landed at Bodega Bay, 40 miles north of the present city of San Francisco, and of which he took possession in the name of Queen Elizabeth. Baron Friederich von Humbolt (qv) and later writers restricted the name to the region between San Francisco and what is now the northern boundary of the State of Oregon.

"Subsequently, in 1634, the term New Albion was applied to that region on the East Coast of North America (Long Island, and the territory now included in New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania) which constituted a grant made by Charles I to Sir Edmund Plowden and others as a county palatinate.

"And my wrists fall off. I was actually referring to Drake's New Albion, which name had been in use subsequent to 1634, I know. Gorbliney.

On this basis, Poultron Press are operating solely by the permission of the British. WHY DON'T THEY REPLY TO OUR LETTERS, THEN??? djt

"1970 will be an interesting year for Diplomacy players, as Professor Reject Fuzztoad has delivered a series of articles on the playing of Diplomacy and which will appear in the K - the big K.

"I am tired of writing to you and I still have to do a D Day move. Shellacking time is coming. Bob.

** Thanks for the information, Bob. Curiously enough, page 148 of volume 20 of my encyclopaedia deals with that other foreign place which was created by the British, Scotland.... However, on to the other letter. djt**

"Dear Albion (or olde Albany)

From the mighty typewriter of Bob Elliot comes some poils of wizdum. Aside from the confusion I am able to wrought, it gives an excuse for not writing people I owe letters to, but am ashamed to write; but I shall, so give up not your hope. I say, English brethren have you noticed that djt does not even deign to report on the Diplodeur? Can it be that he is acting the role of slbberdegullion?

I have been trying for ages, but can't get the cantathropan grommet quite in place. In ALBION I report on magazines which contain more than just games, not merely the moves and associated press releases. The reason is simple - the review is intended as a guide to British readers who may be interested in subscribing to one of the larger, more general magazines. Therefore quite a number of gamezines aren't really appropriate; Astra, SerenDip, Vimy Victors, Glory Road etc. are other examples. No offence intended by the omission. OK? djt

"Now ALBION joins Miller's Games Bureau Diplomacy Division -- commonly called the 'dippy ward'....look that up in your Funk and Wagnalls. Now he is forced to trade with all sorts of zines. Hotcha!

Not so. ALBION trades with the magazines chosen by the editor; we are not forced to trade with anyone. For one thing, we couldn't afford the postage, which is why we have had to run away from a few trades in the past. We believe that our trades are uniformly excellent magazines, and gain considerable benefits from membership of the NFFF Games Bureau. In addition to which, we obtain much interesting information from the Games Bureau which is not Diplomacy-related. djt

"ALBION lies -- it says it records the progress of PBM Dippy games within England. Diplodeur II takes place in England if only in part. Ah, I must tell you folk of the deceiving ways of gamesmasters.

ALBION records the progress of postal Diplomacy games taking place within the British Region of AHIKS, or within the area covered by the British Region, AHIKS membership apart. That is just what we do; we didn't say no-one else did it - we just said we did it. OK? djt

"Monstermind - who writes the Game Theory article; it is interesting. Can it be reprinted in the Big K? Will you explain your article to me? What good is it? What good are you? What is it that has four flies and wheels?

Answers in order. 1. Prof. Erasmus Thing, a good fiend of mine. 2. If Bob Johnson wants it, yes. 3. Read the darned thing. 4. Ditto. 5. Apply the wife. 6. This is obvious - it is a circulating male quartet. djt

At this point the letter tails off; we presume that the writer eventually ended up chewing holes in the furniture, if they allow him any. However the letter does clear up later on, and a couple of problems are proposed, as follows.

"If F(ENC) C A(Bre)-Wal, and F(Lon)-ENC, does the convoy succeed? Why here again we can see a unit do double duty, because the fleet in the Channel both defends and convoys. Now isn't that a bit of a miracle?

** Not so - the rules are quite clear on convoys. A convoy only fails if the convoying fleet is dislodged. Thus the move from London would need a support to disrupt the convoy. After all, from the realistic point of view, the fleet doesn't actually do the convoying - this is done by troop carriers etc. while the fleet protects the convoy. Have you ever heard of a couple of divisions of army troops climbing on board a battleship? djt**

"Now let me offer you a nice one with Italy: A(Ven)-Rom, F(Nap)-Rom. Turkey: F(IYS) S Italian F(Nap)-Rom, F(IOS)-Nap. Where does F(IOS) land up?

No answer to that one, eh? Well, read on and you will learn, Mr. Elliot.

DIPLOMACY RULES DISPUTES etc.

(Reprinted from BROEDINGNAG, by kind permission of John McCallum).

No. 7. The self standoff.

Turkey has a unit in Bulgaria and another in Smyrna, but has no other units in the vicinity. There is a hostile fleet in the Aegean, which may be expected to make a strike at one or other of Bulgaria, Constantinople or Smyrna. With only two forces to defend three centres there is one chance in three that Turkey will guess wrong and leave undefended the space which the fleet tries for; the consequent loss of a supply centre must be disastrous.

A commonly used defensive manoeuvre is for Turkey to play both the Bulgarian force and the Smyrnan force to Constantinople. The units stand each other off and, at the same time, stand off any unsupported enemy move to Constantinople. As they then remain in Bulgaria and Smyrna, they likewise prevent any capture of these centres. Two forces can thus defend three spaces.

Some players of the so-called realist school have objected to the move as it corresponds with nothing which occurs in real war. However most magazines permit it, and it is used fairly often when a player wants, for whatever reason, to prevent another player from entering a certain space but does not want to enter it himself.

Note that this tactic is permitted in ALBION games. As far as the realism goes, to compare Diplomacy with real warfare leaves many more gaps than just this one - how about a fleet controlling the whole of Spain, for instance? djt

No. 8. The self standoff countered by hostile support.

Quite recently Hank Reinhardt, playing in Lonely Mountain, has developed a counter which is sometimes effective against the self standoff move.

In the example given in the last section the attacking player, let's call him Italy, might guess that Turkey would use the self standoff move. Instead of attacking any of the three centres he might play Fleet Aegean support Turkish army Bulgaria to Constantinople, thus ensuring that the move would succeed. This would, of course, not give him any of the supply centres, but it might help him in one of two ways:

1. Italy might be bringing up other forces for an attack on Bulgaria. Moving the defending force out of that centre may help him on the next season's play.

2. The Italian player might not covet any of the three centres but he may want to ensure that Turkey does not have Constantinople open for a build. His move closes it.

It has sometimes been suggested that support of a foreign unit should only be effective if the player being supported states that he wants the support. Such an interpretation

would, of course, upset the counter-move. I think that there are serious objections to introducing such a prohibition:

1. With the lack of communication between players, and even between allies, and the general sloppiness in writing orders which is prevalent, there would be many cases of welcomed support stultified through failure of a player to inform his gamesmaster that he expects such and such allied units to support.
2. The rule book explicitly allows support without consent of the supported player, in the case of units left standing by a player who leaves the game. There is another argument for allowing the move. As the realists used to point out the self standoff move itself has no close analogy with anything done in actual war - it is a case of taking advantage of the wording of the rulebook to achieve a wanted result. If the defender is allowed to use the letter of the law in this way, the attacker should have the same privilege, and there is certainly nothing in the present rulebook to specifically prevent the move.

Now, back to Bob Elliot's problem. (Just who is Bob Elliot, anyway? Can anyone enlighten me on him for preference?)

Clearly the Italians, in this scenario, have used the self standoff to defend Naples, Rome and Genoa with only two units. The Turkish support of the Naples move is the Reinhardt gambit in use, and the move Naples to Rome is OK since it has a support. Therefore Naples is free, and the Ionian fleet can enter.

Quite simple, really, when you have John McCallum to explain it for you.

Talking of John, I had a letter from him the other day which contains many items of interest. I reproduce the relevant portions below:-

"There is no doubt that the idea behind Diplomacy has a strictly limited appeal. There are many people who would never be at home in the game. Women, mostly, don't like it. This is no slur. The reason they don't like it is that they are too loyal; they are willing to fight for their side but don't like the treachery which is inherent in the game. De gustibus, and all that."

As the only current female subscriber to ALBION, perhaps Sheila Minion would like to comment? djt

"You quote Brobdingnag on the subject of Boardman's rule and then suggest that Boardman may have changed his mind since then. On the contrary. Boardman originally ruled in the sense that we now call Koning's rule. In fact, Koning adopted his rule in the first place largely in order to bring

his procedure into line with Boardman's. However when Boardman read Koning's discussion and found that what he had been doing was contrary to the exact letter of the book he promptly reversed himself and, since then, has been the outstanding gamesmaster who does not use Koning's rule.

"You mention, twice now I think, that you have now covered the most important rule disputes. This is indeed true except for one omission - namely the Victory Criterion. The V. Criterion used can make a startling difference to end play, as I have reason to know, once having been in a game where an ally and myself had 17 centres between us, and John Smythe had the other 17 centres. The game was in slab (** John Koning's magazine djt**) which, at that time, used the 'majority of forces on the board' rule. We found that there were many plays that we would have liked to make which were impossible for us to risk under that rule, although they would have been possible under an 18-centre or an 18-force rule. I once published the suggestion that Calhoun had really meant to have an 18-force rule and that the present wording was merely the result of a mistake on his part. He wrote me and admitted that this was so but added that the distinction was trivial. It is by no means trivial - it can have a serious effect on end game play."

Thank you for the letter and the comments, John. I must confess to feeling slightly battered when confronted with some of the more erudite complications of this game, in the hands of the experts, and I warrant other English novices feel the same. Ah well - give us a couple of years or so and we will catch up.

The Victory Criterion is certainly an important omission. This will be rectified in a future issue (hopefully next time, but at any rate before 69/1 gets into the closing stages).

Devotees of our games theory article will be wondering where it has got to this time. Be patient, folks, it starts on the next page. It's just that this time we seem to have had a lot to cover on the rules topics etc., and I don't want to deprive you all at this merry Christmas time. If copies of ALBION haven't been read before, there's a fair chance they will get a thumbing after the pudding, when the body is unwilling to do more than sit back on the spine and stare into space.

xx

One important omission from an earlier article, on the current state of subscriptions. I also collared David Wood at the regional meeting, and he has not only paid the extra 69/1 game fee but also has given me enough stamps for 12 issues more than previously. Sorry David - if you are on the point of writing me a rude letter, I hope you read this first. (If you see what I mean).

GAME THEORY (contd.)

Homework Review.

The good Prof. has kindly supplied us with the answers to the homework set last time, which we give below. However, take 100 lines, all of you - at the time of preparing this page, no homework has been received from any of you! We hope that some contributions will arrive before printing date, in which case they will be accounted later. Anyway, for those who tried the homework, but failed to send in their solutions for fear of reprisals from teacher, here are the answers.

1.

7	4
2	3

Easy one, this, for a starter. There is a saddle point, at Blue 1 / Red 2. Therefore players should use these strategies, and the value of the game is £4 (to Blue, of course).

2.

7	4
2	5

Astute readers will realise that this is the same as number 1, except that one payoff has been changed, which has the effect of removing the saddle point. Therefore we require a mixed-strategy solution.

Blue plays in ratio 1:1. Red plays in ratio 1:5. Value £4½.

3.

9	0
4	10

No saddle point, so another mixed-strategy solution, which is easy enough to find by normal methods.

Blue plays in ratio 2:3. Red plays in ratio 2:1. Value £6.

4. An interesting point of philosophy arises here - who is Jim's opponent? Certainly not his wife, since they are usually fond of the quiet life. If we must personalise the opponent, call him (or rather 'her') Mother Nature. If you don't want to be so polite, call him that unknown fiend who always makes sure you get such dates wrong. Obviously the strategy to be used by this opponent isn't of much interest to us, insofar as we can't control it anyway. Anyway, we will list this unknown opponent in the 'Red' position, and give Jim's strategies down the left hand side.

Setting up the matrix as advised, we get:-

		Nature	
		Date right	Date wrong.
Jim	Buys gift	5	2
	Returns with no gift.	-10	0

Not so bad for a starter. There is a saddle point, at Jim 1 and Nature 2. So Jim should always buy flowers, no matter how strong his parsimonious impulses. Expensive - but safe!

Critics of this series of articles may say: "Ah, but we chose the values of the payoffs in rather an arbitrary way. What happens if we change the numbers around, and perhaps lose the saddle point?"

You can change the numbers around all you like in this example, with one proviso - you must not change the relationship between the numbers. In other words, if you change Jim's estimation of the relative worth (to him) of the various outcomes, you could change the result, but not otherwise. Thus, Jim must always prefer the result 'bring flowers but get day wrong' to 'bring nothing and get day wrong', which is pretty reasonable unless we consider the complications introduced in question 5.

The subject of approximations and errors in deciding on payoff values will be discussed later (much later, the rate this series is going).

5. Now, the real crunch. If you remember, we were here interested in the change of Jim's decision, were he anxious to avoid arousing his wife's suspicions.

Read on, ye erring husbands, and discover with horror how close you are to discovery.

We have proposed that the outcome 'bring flowers but get wrong date' would induce unwanted suspicions in Mrs. Jim, and hence the value of that outcome should be less than zero, say -3 for example. The matrix changes as follows:-

		Nature	
		Right day	Wrong day.
Jim	Gift	5	-3
	No gift	-10	0

Woe is me! Or rather, woe is Jim! The saddle point has gone, and it leaves a nasty mess behind it. The solution of this amended game is:-

Jim plays 10:8, or 5:4. Nature plays 3:15, or 1:5.

Value of the game $-\frac{30}{18}$, or $-\frac{5}{3}$, which looks pretty gloomy, since negative payoffs go to Nature, or against Jim, which is more to the point.

The value assigned to the north-east box, of course, changes the strategy Jim must use, but doesn't make the value of the game positive until the north-east box itself is positive.

Moral: if you want to fool about with the typist, boy, get rid of the wife first.

One thing - readers' wives will be heartened by the solutions of questions 4 and 5. Nice to know ALKEN is doing some good.

Now, to continue the series.

Part 6. Natural Break.

We have now dealt with 2x2 games, and there seems to be some little hope that you have so far followed the reasoning with some accuracy and interest. The next step is to consider what are known as 2xm games, in which one player has but two strategies open to him, and the other more than two (m standing for 'many', by a cunning piece of reasoning). However I think it's perhaps a bit early to go into this, since I am sure you would like some more examples, particularly of a more practical nature, on 2x2 games before proceeding further.

This is therefore what I will do, having talked myself into it. In this section we will deal with solutions to a few practical problems. First, however, a word in your ear. Some of the examples that follow you may dismiss as trivial, others you may call artificial; these properties are a natural consequence of the simple level at which we are at the moment looking at games. If all games in real life came out to be 2x2, then there would be little need for game theory, since, as I remarked earlier, the detection of a saddle point, particularly, can be carried out by purely intuitive means.

I can assure you, by way both of reassurance and warning, that we will meet more realistic problems as we progress up the ladder of complexity. By their very nature, however, they will be more difficult.

Without further ado, then, let's get on with it.

Example 8. Simple Diplomacy play.

You have a unit adjacent to two areas of particular interest to you. You would like to move to area A, which is not a supply centre, since that would give you a fine position for future development. However an enemy has a unit which can also move into area A, or into area B, which is a home supply centre under your control. Apart from retaining its supply potential, you don't particularly want to go for B, but you aren't sure what the enemy will do - destroy your nice tactical position by standing you off in area A, or destroy you totally by pinching your supply centre. Identify yourself with Blue, and try to formulate a matrix.

On the whole, area B is more important to you than is A. What about the relative worth? Well, this is up to you, but let us say that you think holding B is three times more valuable to you than holding A. Let us also say that if you and the enemy both order to the same place (creating a stand-off), you can count both A and B as remaining in your control.

Therefore, assign a value of 3 to B and 1 to A. If you keep both, by a stand-off, the value to you is the sum of these, i.e. 4. Lay out the matrix, which should look like this:-

Enemy orders to:

A B

You order to:

A	4	1
B	3	4

Test for saddle point. No, the only thing this tells us is that the value of the game lies somewhere between the largest of the row minima (3) and the smallest of the column maxima (4). This at least is something; a normal cautious player would order to B and assure himself the supply centre value of 3. Using game theory can raise his expectation higher.

Your strategies: difference in payoffs for strategy A is 3, and difference in payoffs for strategy B is 1. Therefore you should play A:B in the ratio 1:3 (i.e. you should defend the supply centre three times out of every four the situation arises).

Enemy strategies: difference in payoffs for strategy A is 1, and difference in payoffs for strategy B is 3. Therefore the enemy should play A:B in the ratio 3:1, i.e. he should attack the supply centre once in every four times the problem occurs.

The value of the game:-

Your mix against enemy A yields $\frac{1x4 + 3x3}{4} = 3\frac{1}{4}$.

Your mix against enemy B yields $\frac{1x1 + 3x4}{4} = 3\frac{1}{4}$.

Enemy mix against your A yields $\frac{3x4 + 1x1}{4} = 3\frac{1}{4}$.

Enemy mix against your B yields $\frac{3x3 + 1x4}{4} = 3\frac{1}{4}$.

Therefore the value of the game is $3\frac{1}{4}$, whereas a normal player would be content with 3 by going for the supply centre and safety. Game theory has given you the extra $\frac{1}{4}$, an edge which cannot be ignored.

Before the next example, let me state that I have put down the calculation required to complete the solution of the game and to confirm the value, only to remind you of the process. In the examples to follow, the detailed calculations will not be shown, but you should be in a position to confirm the results for yourselves.

Example 9. The bombing raid.

Blue bombers are sent out on a particular recurrent mission in pairs, one actually carrying the bomb, and the other the miscellany of gear required for such affairs - leaflets, radar jamming equipment, coffee and dancing girls in case of being shot down. They always fly in such a formation that bomber 1 gets far more protection from the guns of

bomber 2 than bomber 1 derives from bomber 1. Let's attribute this to a permanently drunken gunner.

The Blue high command is rather concerned lest Red fighters shoot down the bomb-carrier; they are rather less concerned about the fate of the dancing girls, blue films etc. in the other bomber. The question is - should the bomb-carrier be placed in the better-defended position? Being ignorant of game theory, these poor nuts have always been putting the bomb carrier where it is better protected. Let's see if we can help them a bit.

Let us say that, in the event of an attack, the chances of a plane surviving the attack are 50% if in the less protected position, and 75% if in the better protected position. The strategies are:-

- Blue 1 = bomb-carrier in more protected position.
- Blue 2 = bomb-carrier in less protected position.
- Red 1 = attack more protected position.
- Red 2 = attack less protected position.

Obviously, if the bomb-carrier is not attacked, they regard the outcome as 100% success, since they couldn't care a hang for the other plane. Who'd join the air force?

Lay out the matrix thus:-

		Red	
		1	2
Blue	1	75	100
	2	100	50

Now, work out the result. There is no saddle point (how could there be, with this sort of problem?) and therefore we look for a mixed strategy solution.

It turns out that Blue should play his strategies in ratio 50:25, or 2:1. By coincidence, Red also plays his strategies in the ratio 2:1.

The value of the game to Blue is $\frac{2 \times 75 + 1 \times 100}{3} = 83\frac{1}{3} \%$.

So, if Blue uses a chance device, and game theory, to select the position for the bomb-carrier each time, he will get the bomb past attacking fighters 83 1/3% of the time, instead of getting past only 75% of the time if he merely does what is apparently the logical thing. This improvement is nearly 10%, and is not to be sneezed at.

Note an interesting difference between this example and the previous one, about Diplomacy. In this case Red prefers to attack the more protected position (in ratio 2:1), while in the last he attacked the non-supply-centre with preference, in the ratio 3:1. Remarkable, eh?

Just one more, before letting you loose on the homework to follow.

Example 10. The domestic problem.

Charlie is relaxing in his favourite armchair when a thought intrudes - what about ordering coal for the winter months? He has found, from bitter experience, that it takes about 2 tons to heat his house in a normal winter, but in a particularly harsh winter his wife virtually lights fires everywhere, and this extravagance could lead to a consumption of $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons, as well as to divorce.

At the moment he can get coal at £5 per ton, but if he delays the decision until the character of the winter is known, the price could rise to £10 per ton, the merchants having found out how cold the winter was and knowing that they had a captive customer.

One final snag: Charlie is moving house to the Bahamas next year, and can't take any surplus coal with him.

So, the problem. Should he buy all his supply now for a cold winter, or buy for a normal winter now and risk having to fork out extra later. He considers two strategies, namely to buy 2 or $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal now, and to get the rest, if need be later. The costs are easily found to be:-

		Winter	
		Normal	Cold
Charlie buys	2	10	25
	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$

Calculate the odds, and it turns out that Charlie should buy the smaller: larger stockpile in the ratio 0:15.

Strange result, this. Why the incidence of that unusual 0, we ask ourselves? The solution is easy - this game has a saddle point, corresponding to Charlie buying $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons now.

You are lucky that 0 showed up - in another case it could have been some quite innocent number, and you would not have found the error until you tried to get the value of the game (not even then if you didn't check all the alternatives). So, the sting in the tail - ALWAYS CHECK FOR A SADDLE POINT FIRST!

With this chastening experience behind us, we turn now to the homework for this issue. Just two 'practical' problems this time, with relatively easy solutions.

As usual, I would welcome solutions from readers, and these will be printed in the next issue. Don't forget that the prize is still available for the reader submitting what we consider to be the most valuable work during the series.

Problems Set 2.

1. Bert, in addition to his other claims to fame, has a ravishing girl-friend. They meet every Friday outside the Rialto Cinema at 7 p.m., and spend the rest of the evening in sinful behaviour in the back row, when they are both old enough to know better.

Come winter, and Bert is faced with a problem. If he arrives late and she is early, she will get very cold and wet waiting for him, and the evening will not be up to its usual pleasant standard. However if he arrives early and she is late, he will have to pay extra for the car park, or drive round the block countless times, fighting traffic and consuming large quantities of cigarettes.

Question - should Bert always arrive early, or always late, or mix the two? His girl-friend is most unpredictable in this respect (name one that isn't). However he has the consolation that if they both arrive early, or both arrive late, the payoff will be a nice secure 0.

This gives you two boxes in the matrix. Your problem is to assign reasonable values to the other two outcomes and solve the problem. Note that the two other values should both be negative, since the figures represent, in some obscure way, the loss of joy to Bert.

2. Arthur is a bright young man with some commercial flair. He has obtained permission from Manchester United football club to set up a stall outside the ground on match days, and he may sell broken bottles and/or peanuts to the customers entering for an afternoon's enjoyment and light relief.

If the weather is fine, he finds he can sell 500 broken bottles and 100 packets of peanuts. If the weather is wet, on the other hand, the customers' ardour for rioting has been somewhat damped, and he sells only 200 broken bottles. However wet weather seems to induce a spate of eating, and peanut sales soar to 700 in the wet.

Unfortunately, whenever Arthur has some stock left over, and gang always wreck his stall and make everything unsellable, although for some curious reason they don't touch his cash. Thus, everything not sold is counted a total loss.

Arthur has £27½ he can invest in this project each week. Your problem is - does he always buy hoping for fine weather or for weather, or does he mix his strategies? Broken bottles cost 1/- each and sell for 1/6d, and peanuts cost 6d per packet and sell for 1/3d.

You will have to find the profits actually made for each outcome, enter them into a matrix, and solve. Hope you can find a way of making some cash for the lad. Best of luck. Prof. Erasmus Thing.

REPORT.

ALBION 69/1.

There was an error in the report for Autumn 1904. Amended moves are:-

Italy: F(IOS)-Tun. All other as reported.

Austria: F(AES)-IOS. F(Tun) S F(AES)-IOS. Others as reported.

The Turkish fleet in Tunis is eliminated. Tunis now under Italian control.

Italy buildsA(Rom).

Turkey buildsF(Smy).

Russia removesF(Rum).

REPORT.

ALBION 69/1.

Spring 1905.

Austria (Nethercot); A(Pie)-Ven. A(Tri) S A(Pie)-Ven.
A(Tyr) S A(Pie)-Ven. A(Vie) S A(Tyr).

England (Munro); No orders received. A(Edi) stands.

France (Watson); F(Cly)-NWG. F(NTH) S F(Cly)-NWG.
F(TYS)-Tus. F(WMS)-TYS.
F(NAf)-MAO. A(Mar)-Pie.
A(Lon)-Yor. A(Ruh) S German A(Mun).

Germany (Newcombe); A(Kie) stands. A(Ber)-Pru.
A(Mun)-Sil. F(Den) S F(BAL)-Swe.
F(BAL)-Swe.

Italy (Robertson); A(Ven) stands. F(Apu)-ADS.
A(Rom) S A(Ven). F(Tun) S French F(WMS)-TYS.

Russia (Hancock); A(Boh)-Gal. A(Pru) stands.
A(Swe) stands. F(GoB) S A(Swe).
A(StP)-Nor. F(Nor)-NTH.
F(NWG) S F(Nor)-NTH.

Turkey (Wood); F(IOS)-ADS. F(AES)-IOS. (no such unit).
A(Ser) stands. A(Gre) stands.
A(Bul) stands.

The Italian A(Ven) is displaced (attack with two supports, defence with one support). It has no place to which to retreat and is hence eliminated.

Notation: S = supports. Underlined moves fail.

Deadline for Autumn 1905 orders:-

It's not worth setting a really short deadline and trying to get the next issue mailed before Christmas - the postal authorities will snooker that idea. I can, however, try to do this if everyone is agreed on a short deadline. Therefore, if orders are all in by TUESDAY DECEMBER 16th, I will report. If not, the official deadline is Tuesday December 30th.

PRESS RELEASES - 69/1.

Berlin.

As reported last time, a Russian espionage network has been uncovered, and the Imperial German Government have decided to lift the Press ban hitherto imposed.

The demise of our Anglo-Saxon allies and blood brothers left us with no alternative but to reach a working agreement with our Gaulish neighbours. All is well in the vineyards of the Rhine now that French and German crush the grape in fraternal harmony.

The German troops are undaunted at the stalemate on the Russian front, and see this as a moral victory to their efforts in holding at bay vastly superior forces. Unfortunately the inferior equipment and incompetent political direction of the Czarist Government is hampering their efforts, and will lead, we believe, to their ultimate downfall.

"
Bulow.

From the Italian Press Agency.

ROME: Today, crowds of citizens flocked to St. Peter's Square to celebrate Mass for the glorious victory over the foolish Turks in Tunis. Church bells rang all over Italy in celebration of this great and glorious triumph. No reports have come in as yet as to the actual details, but it is obvious that the battle was won by the tremendous fighting powers of our gallant sailors.

Two days ago, a howl of protest was heard from Italian and German voices, as the unscrupulous Gnomes of Zurich once again tried to wash Italy down the plug-hole.* This time, however, they were foiled in their underhand attempt to destroy Italy as a nation. In a message to the Italian people this morning, King Umberelli XXXIX stated that, although Italy was faced by the armed might of Turkey and Austria, and was worried by French probes in her rear, she would fight on, against all her enemies and the gamesmaster, and still emerge triumphant, in spite of all the dastardly plots against the beloved soil of free Italy.

We interrupt the Italian Press release at this point to explain the references to an Italian victory in Tunis. The details are given above the game report in this issue on page 19. djt

TUNIS: Cheering, clapping throngs of Tunisians lined the streets today to welcome back the gallant Italian sailors who had freed their country once again from the threat of the unspeakable Turk. Off the shores of Tunis, a mighty battle raged between the massed forces of the Turkish Empire and the gallant Italian 21st fleet, supported by one or two French frigates, which kept well out of the way of any fighting.

As ship after ship of the vaunted Turkish Navy struck her colours or disappeared into the depths, cheers rang out from the watchers lining the coast. The complete Turkish fleet was annihilated, with the loss to the Italians of only two small rowing boats.

VENICE: Today, this city is in a gay, light-hearted mood, as news that the Austrian army had marched into the trap specially prepared for it reached us. The stupidity of the Austrian commander in moving his troops into Piedmont is unbelievable. However, plans for its annihilation have been put into motion. The French army is approaching its rear, the French Navy is occupying Tuscany and the German army is attacking Tyrol from Munich. All that remains is for the Italian armies to march north from Rome and Venice, and sweep the native soil of Italy free from all foreign invaders. This should show the world that Italy will never be conquered, and that the deceived Austria should realise that she is only being used as a pawn in Russia's and Turkey's game.

As one looks around this area of the Mediterranean, where are the Russian troops? Attacking Germany. Where are the Turkish troops? In the Balkans or in the Aegean Sea. Neither of these two countries is assisting Austria in any way. When are the foolish Austrian people going to realise that their future can only be saved by an alliance with Italy, and if she persists in this foolish alliance with these two countries, there lies ahead only her utter destruction as a nation?

APULIA: The gallant Italian fleet, which has been receiving stores here after its successful annihilation of the Austrian fleet some months ago, today put to sea, this time to carry the war into Austrian soil. Its exact orders are not known as yet, but it is obvious that our ships will be able to attack Trieste, and retaliate for the unprovoked atrocities carried out by the barbaric Austrian troops in the Tyrol, at present temporarily under the heel of Austrian tyranny.

DAILY SCOTSMAN: News of the intervention of the Russian fleet in the internal affairs of Scotland and France has aroused a feeling of the deepest indignation amongst all Scots. Thousands are enlisting in the Scottish Republican Army, and many more are flocking to the standards of our ally, France. Crowds demonstrated in front of the Russian Embassy in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, Today, chanting "Go home Russkies" and "Wha gar meddle wi' me." (Translation: "who has the appalling audacity to interfere in the purely internal affairs of our Scottish country?"

The last remnants of the English army are still holding out in the Castle, the pub just off Prince's Street, Edinburgh, but they have been forced to retreat to the cellar, and the news that the lounge, smoke-room and public bar had been liberated was received with joyous cheers from the eagerly

and, thirsty crowds outside. To date, the only Scots casualties are fourteen dead-drunk, three half-seasick, and one rushed to hospital with alcoholic poisoning. It was later discovered that he had consumed a bottle of Irish, instead of Scotch. Report that to the Race Relations Board!

From the Russian Press Agency.

The Tzar sends greetings to all his friends in Europe and gives the festive season a good start by throwing a real huge orgy at a time and place known only to the Tzar. (I wish someone would tell me).

He also hopes that the French don't get their feet wet during the present Russian fleet manoeuvres beginning in the western provinces. Still - they should be able to dry out in the highlands of Scotland.

Meanwhile the German hordes will, no doubt, continue in their futile ventures in the north. Maybe it would be a good time for them to go home and brew some ale for when the French and Russians come visiting.

THE SIGNING OF A TREATY OF NON-AGGRESSION: Following the recent commencement of hostilities with the rest of Europe, nations have been flocking to the fold of the most gracious and divine Tzar. Recently a non-aggression pact was signed with the Turks, and the surrender of Bulgaria was one of the conditions of the treaty.

Elsewhere the Italians are obviously becoming alarmed at the growing strength of French forces in the Mediterranean, since she is now urgently seeking a meeting with the Russian ambassador in London, which at the present time is the only political contact. However it is felt in Moscow that no alliance will come out of any discussions even if they take place.

From the French Press Agency.

FRANCE DECLARES WAR ON RUSSIA!

An announcement was issued today from the Palace de la Bastille by that eminent statesman, Charles de Gaul, Emperor of all France, Duke of Liverpool, Viceroy of London, King of Turkey, Protector of Spain, Portugal and Belgium, Liberator of Tunis, to the effect that a state of war now exists between France and Tzarist Russia. He said: "For years we have tried to reconcile ourselves to the fact that Russia would remain a tyrannical state where only the parasites who curry with the despicable Tzar can hope to have a happy life. We have been prepared to follow a policy of frigidity towards this terrible land, refusing to antagonise her since she is such an obvious warmonger. We have seen her rape Norway and Sweden, invade Germany, Bulgaria and even their allies in Austria-Hungary. We have swallowed our national pride when she joined with Turkey in her attacks on French and

Italian integrity. We have not even taken action against her for her threats aimed at intimidating French policy towards England. However the time has surely come for a change in policy towards that Russian Bear. Despite warnings on outside interference in the Scottish question, the Tzar saw fit to give aid to the English forces in Edinburgh. This of course cannot be tolerated, and consequently I have no option but to inform you that a state of war now exists between the French Empire and the province of Russia."

He went on to talk of the rest of Europe. "French forces in the Mediterranean are to be run down now that Turkey has been driven out of Tunis. Austria-Hungary has come to an agreement with regard her forces in Piedmont, the war between herself and Italy now having ceased and both countries now intend to run down their forces to a peacetime level".

The Emperor concluded with his usual trick - balancing a pint of Youngers ale on his tongue while singing Annie Laurie to the accompaniment of the Black and Blue Minstrels.

From the Austrian Press - a selection of Comment and Trivia from the Hapsberg domains.

From Auntie Fitz, air correspondent, Maid and Waitress Weekly.

The Austrian Ministry of Transport has not yet released details of its new heavier-than-air machines. But news reaches us that the sole European manufacturing rights of Wright Brothers America Ltd have been secured by Count Oftenoff and a group of fellow hussars from the Royal Horse Establishment at Budapest. Contracts have been placed to secure a considerable quantity of large rimless eyeglasses. Such a highly significant development leads us to think that horsepower is shortly to become airborne.

Extract from 'Slav the Slav', a comic revue at the Trieste Empire Theatre.

"The Austrian army has continued to advance on all fronts, the Italian forces crumbling like an old fruit cake. The sudden and heavy collapse of the Tyrolean front, after years of fighting, underlines the basic malaise which has rotted the soft core of the enemy military junta. And everyone knows what happens to a rotten junta. It is time for a change in the tide of Italian affairs. There can be no doubt that the French will throw away their Italian allies, like a pair of old boots or last week's fish and chips. The only hope for her is to come to terms with Austria or Turkey.

From After Dinner Speech by Radsbul Vindqik (Deputy Premier).

"It is assumed that the French government have now decided to join the journalists' union en masse. They obviously have nothing better to do all day than write daft articles

for practice. Anyhow - hats off to mon brave General! His imagination is as brilliant as his strategic insight. Let no one be led astray by the ridiculous statements emanating from the Paris wine shops. We must be on guard and place our trust in the magnificent fighting qualities of our soldiers and sailors. Let us ~~raise~~ our glasses to victory - Vive the forces of freedom!"

From the Scientific Serbo-Croat, by Professor Knutt.

At the last meeting of our Society I explained in some detail the reason behind the social and economic collapse of the Italian State. My good friend and fellow-scientist Cosmo Cornflakio has recently crossed the Adriatic to seek political asylum in our country. That such a noted authority on Venetian cut glass should have made such a heart-searching decision is irrefutable proof that scientific endeavour and research continues to be suppressed by the present Italian regime. We offer Cornflakio the full facilities of our little Institute; perhaps one day he will be able to return to his beloved house boat on the Grand Canal.

From the Vienna Times Military Correspondent - Somewhere In The Alps.

No-one is under any delusions about the magnitude of the tasks ahead. The Austrian Army has already overcome not only its enemy but also the fierce resistance of natural forces. Jumping from peak to peak the Alpine corps out-flanked the feather-bedecked Italian mountain troops time after time. Chraging up and down mountain sides takes a lot of doing, and we are all looking forward to the flat racing season which is due to start any day now. Once we reach the plains we expect to gather a bit of speed. Supplies could present difficulties, but the seizure of the best truffle-growing areas means that food no longer presents us with a serious problem.

At his press conference the commander of the XIX corps listed the immediate needs of his soldiers. Some breakdown in communications was to be expected since no-one had anticipated such a sudden and rapid advance. It was now up to the authorities to get a weave on.

A Secret Agent.

"I met him in a sewer. He was small, neatly dressed, and wore a carnation in his button-hole. "What are you doing in this sewer?", I said. He replied - "I am seeking information about the silence of the Austrian Press." "Oh, that", was my retort, "That is because they have been on holiday and engaged in other activities." My interrogator winced. "But they have no right to let me down like that." I hit him on the head with my new alperistock. He slowly crumpled to the floor. I removed the carnation and gently kicked

him into the swiftly flowing effluent".

Let that be a lesson to those who ask dangerous questions.

The Laird of Knockyhall, an anthology of contemporary verse.

Hoots mon, wi all mi warfity muckles krinky krroks y wee wherries
Clan McCoy 'll whip the Froggies frae Tllymoggy t' Nucklebar.
Claymore, pikes an' goolie nerries
Send tey packin' tae Lochinvar.

Gorbals kinking nerer wiskey water
Lock yon childers an ye dorter,
Send they Frenchies all a packin'
Slit their gizzards for t' slaughter.

Set hi glens creekin'
Wheir uld crones peakin'
An doaga lie sleepin'

.....

At this point the manuscript comes to an abrupt end. Had we not known otherwise, we would have thought the writer to be the incorrigible Bob Elliot. djt

From the Turkish Press Agency.

The French aggressor has once again used her might by bullying Germany into the role of a puppet state. This action can only be deplored and surveyed with growing interest by the remaining European States. It can now be disclosed that France made a similar 'threat', and subsequent 'arrangement' with England before the demise of the latter. It is obvious from the Turkish point of view that M. de Gaulle has his evil eye on the eventual conquest of the whole of Europe.

The pact between Italy and France must be regarded as unbreakable; however it is rumoured that both leaders still display their national costume (the kilt) at all sittings of the government. The NANA hopes that both government's official buildings were well built, and that all the doors fit properly. However nothing can stop the drought coming from each other's mouth.

xx

We now turn our attention to the new game, ALBION 69/2. Press releases are, thankfully, shorter for this game, and we hope that this will continue, since the publication of ALBION on the right date depends to a great extent on the amount of typing which has to be done at the last moment.

This should not be taken as a discouragement - press releases of any length will be printed subject to the usual conditions. However the request that releases should not be made unduly long in future should be taken by implication.

REPORT.

ALBION 69/2.

Spring 1901.

There has been some confusion among the players. I thought that David Wood was playing Austria, but he apparently didn't think so. The player for Austria will continue to be listed as David until such times as he lets me know his position; in the interim the moves for Austria will be conducted by a reserve player. All diplomatic correspondence directed to Austria should be sent via the gamesmaster until the problem is sorted out. I hope David will let me know how he stands in this regard as soon as possible, so that the reserve player I have pressurised into substituting for him can thankfully drop out.

The players.

Austria: David Wood, 60 Woodgate Avenue, Church Lawton, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3EF, Staffs. (See above).
 England: Chris Hancock, 17 Mallard Road, Chelmsford, Essex.
 France: Ray Evans, 12 Mareth Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire.
 Germany: Bob Stuart, 3 Millwood Road, Orpington, Kent.
 Italy: Malcolm Watson, 3 Hawthorn Avenue, Timperley, Cheshire.
 Russia: John Robertson, Upper Dunglass, Arbroath Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 1QN.
 Turkey: Bob Thomas, 155 Coxford Road, Shirley Warren, Southampton SO1 6JX, Hampshire.

The moves.

Austria (Wood);	F(Tri) stnads.	A(Bud)-Ser.
	A(Vie)-Bud.	
England (Hancock);	F(Edi)-NWG.	F(Lon)-NTH.
	A(Liv)-Edi.	
France (Evans);	A(Par)-Pic.	A(Mar)-Bur.
	F(Bre)-MAO.	
Germany (Stuart);	F(Kie)-Den.	A(Mun)-Ruh.
	A(Ber)-Kie.	
Italy (Watson);	A(Ven) stands.	A(Rom)-Nap.
	F(Nap)-IOS.	
Russia (Robertson);	F(StP-SC)-GoB.	A(Mos)-StP.
	A(War)-Ukr.	F(Sev)-Rum.
Turkey (Thomas);	F(Ank)-BLA.	A(Con)-Bul.
	A(Smy)-Con.	

Deadline for Autumn 1901 orders - see the paragraph below the 69/1 report. The next issue of ALBION will only be printed on the earlier date if orders for both games have been received at that time. Otherwise, the deadline goes back to the later date, and copies will be sent out early in the New Year.

69/2 Press Releases.

London.

Recent notes received from most heads of State indicate that the commencement of hostilities is rather close. In fact recent exchanges with the Tzar of Russia have been in what can only be described as fighting talk.

Her Majesty's Government has stood firm on the question of her territorial rights in Norway; however she is remaining as neutral as is possible in such a fervent European climate.

Paris.

In France's leading newspaper, the Daily Looking-Glass, there appeared, between the 'Dead Letters' and the football pools forecast, a short article in which the Press were invited to ask questions of the President on the recent military manoeuvres.

The Drawing: "Why was it necessary to move troops so suddenly?"

President: "You may be sure that the movement of troops to certain areas was not ordered without deep regret. After much diplomatic activity, it was found impossible to come to any sort of agreement with a certain power, therefore deeming it necessary to put up a show of force."

The Sentry: "Could you please tell us what was said in the official communiques - and why the deadlock?"

President: "Sorry, but I cannot disclose information that was given in confidence."

The Clocks: "Could you at least tell us what power or powers brought about the deadlock?"

President: "No I cannot."

The Moon: "What if the power you have in mind invades France?"

President: "I hope and pray that no such eventuality occurs, but if the worst comes to the worst, the French forces will drive out the invader, but will not herself cross the frontier into foreign territory."

The Normal: "But what good will that do?"

President: "It will show that France still strives for peace, and is still willing to come to some sort of agreement or settlement, so long as it is not to France's disadvantage."

Timbucto Gazette: "And what would you say to the invader if he still intends to bring about the defeat of France?"

President: "Cingle!" (Bonkers).

As the President rose to take his leave someone in the Press gathering asked whether France has any alliances or pacts that could influence events at present and in the future; the President is reported to have replied "No comment."

Note: the French Press comment was reported to ALBION by Raymond Loubet, French Press-hound extraordinary.

Berlin.

Yesterday the Kaiser spent the day resting. (Not nesting).

From the Russian Press.

(New York Daily Worker). A special communique from our correspondent in the Balkans announced today that Bulgarian troops fired upon Turkish troops and attacked and destroyed three Turkish villages near the border between the two countries. As a result, Turkish forces are being mobilised to meet any future attacks, and a strong note has been handed to the Bulgarian Ambassador in Ankara. Seemingly, it states that, in the event of any future aggression against Turkish soil, the Turkish Government will have no other alternative but to declare that a state of war exists between the two countries.

The unrest in the Balkans looks like spreading, as rumours have it that Austria is secretly backing the Bulgarian attacks, in an attempt to create an international situation whereby she can regain control of the various neutral countries in that area.

Apparently, the only stabilising influence in this tense situation is the fact that no-one seems to know what Russia will do. As is well known to all our readers, Russia has always regarded herself as being the protector of the Slav peoples in the Balkan countries, and would most likely attack any of the two countries who commenced hostilities.

(Berliner Zeitung). Today the grand and glorious plans of our beloved Ruler, Kaiser Bob, were put into motion. The long-desired second reconquest of France is now well under way. Once this ancient enemy is trampled under the boots of the victorious German army, then will come the turn of that upstart and swinish nation, England. To this effect, the ship-building at Kiel has been increased, and it is hoped that, with the addition of such other territories as our armed might will conquer, we shall be in a position before very long to undertake an invasion of those dastardly islands.

Although we have an agreement with England, this is only a scrap of paper and can be torn up at the proper moment, when we can unleash our glorious troops upon the fiendish English.

Hoch dem Kaiser! Hoch der Tag!

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION.

Let it be known that our Great and Glorious Ruler, Ivan the Aweful, Ivan Robertsudski, Tzar of all the Russias, Father of His People, Saviour of the Motherland, has viewed with regret the preparations for war now being made by his Cousins of Western Europe.

In compliance with various Treaties at present in existence between our beloved Russia and other States, our Most Noble and Exalted Tzar has ordered all troops at present stationed at or near the frontier to withdraw further into their Motherland, thus demonstrating, once and for all, to all the peoples of the world, the peaceful intentions of our Great Nation. Henceforth and from hereon, the Great and Magnificent Russian forces will only act in defence of their Homeland, or in defence of the countries with which a Mutual Treaty of defence has been agreed. No Nation in Europe has to fear any unprovoked attack from the Armed Might of Russia. God Save Petrushka! God Save the Tzar! Signed: Ivan Awfulhope, Grand Premier of the Dumas.

Moscow. Our peaceful neighbour, Sweden, having been alarmed by news of an English Fleet setting forth to invade Norway, has today asked our Government to prepare to assist them against an attempt by any foreign power to overthrow their democratic and peace-loving Government. As a result, our Fleet set forth from St. Petersburg and entered the Gulf of Bosnia, where it can aid the gallant Swedes should the need arise.

Ukraine. Units of the Black Seas Fleet, at present stationed in Sevastopol, arrived in Rumania for their future part in the festivities shortly to be held to celebrate Rumania's 25 years of freedom. Already the Rumanians are making our gallant Russian sailors extremely welcome, and arrangements are being made for an indefinite stay in this most hospitable country. A request for some army troops to take part has also been received, and, as a result, units of the army now stationed in Warsaw have started to move through the Ukraine, en route for Rumania.

St. Petersburg. Rumours at Court have been spreading throughout the past few days to the effect that the decadent Austro-Hungarian armies have attempted to interfere with Turkish internal difficulties recently caused by the unprovoked attack by the Bulgarian troops on their neighbours, Turkey. It is also rumoured that an Austrian Army has entered Serbia. If this is true, then our Government must view with displeasure any attempt to overthrow the present status quo in the Balkans.

From the Turkish Press Agency.

(Reuters, Constantinople). The fear is gaining ground here that with the assassination of Arch-Duke Franz, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, war, which has hitherto been restricted to the Balkans, will spread further afield. Already there are reports being received of partial Russian mobilisation as they get ready to support the Serbian Government against unreasonable demands being made by the Austrians. These demands are only being made, it is announced, because Germany has promised support in the event of any Russian

intervention in the dispute, and because Austria wants to extend her Empire to include the Slav states in the Balkans.

However this opening move could start off a chain reaction that would be difficult to stop. France, it is said, is allied with Russia and will come to her aid in the event of war. Italy could take advantage of Austria's preoccupation with the Balkan question to settle the problem of the disputed territory between their two countries by occupying it.

Turkey, although strictly speaking outside Europe, would be a useful ally to anyone wishing to gain control of the Eastern Mediterranean. Already it has been reported that overtures have been made by several of the major European Powers to the Turkish Government to form alliances. But, so far as is known, no final agreement has been come to. The absence of the German and Austrian ambassadors from any formal consultation with the Turkish Government has been commented on by all foreign observers as being somewhat strange, especially as in the past an alliance between Germany and Turkey was looked on with favour by the Governments in question.

It is hoped however that the present tense situation will ease and a solution can be found that all parties will find satisfactory. A general conflagration in Europe will benefit nobody, and several tottering and unstable monarchical systems of government will be swept away, perhaps for ever.

****The French and Austrian Presses are silent, no news having reached the ALBION agency.****

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This ends the Press releases for this time - quite a typing job, I can assure you.

Our next item (yes, there is still more) is a torrent of abuse. Apparently someone thinks we insulted Malcolm Watson in these pages last issue (or was it the one before?) Well, that's nothing new - we are always insulting someone, and if it isn't Poultron Press, why shouldn't it be Malcolm? Now I ask you - why shouldn't it be?? However we don't remember insulting him at all.

Anyway, a few people think we have, and have written a large number of threatening letters to the editor, the decent parts of which are printed below for all to see the slur on the ALBION editor they imply. Ha!

Dear Sir, It is with great indignation that I put pen to paper to defend Malcolm Watson. I am an ardent admirer of this gentleman and have been for many years. Never before in the life of mankind has there been such a wonderful, goodlooking, honest, helpful person, and I can only assume that the recent tirade in the press against this kind, loving, gentle Scot was written by people jealous of his eminent position.

I have called a meeting of the Broughty Ferry Womens Anti-anti-Scot Society and will propose an immediate march on the ALBION offices to bring the editor of your scandal sheet to task. Incidentally I note your recent excuse for drawing a @*%\$" helmet on top of our homeland. We reject your claims as false and insist that the cover of ALBION be changed without further delay. Yours, Mrs. G. Watson.
P.S. I am no relation of Malcolm's although I bear the same name.

Oh yeah? Bet she's his mother or sister or something. The cover of ALBION will remain at least until I run out of ideas for it. Here comes another. djt

Dear Sir, As president of the Society for provision of men for blind dogs, I feel it is my duty to protest at the recent degrading way in which Malcolm Watson has been 'got at' in your magazine. Such allegations as him 'descending' on people and 'causing chaos' are utter balderdash. I can in fact tell you that this gentleman is the most kind person it will ever be your pleasure to know; for years now he has anonymously donated 2/6 a week to our cause, and nobody will ever know this to thank him. Can people dare to say a cross word against him? Yours, Sir Baskerville de Gaul.

I tried to give Malcolm to a blind dog only yesterday; the dog turned round and said 'No thanks - I'll smoke one of my own'. Pity, really - quite a suitable candidate. Here comes yet another. djt

Dear Sir, Do my eyes deceive me of late, or can it be true that certain persons have been showering scorn on a certain other person? Yes, it is certainly true. Well, I feel it is my duty as an officer and gentleman to inform those certain people that that certain person is certainly not at all like they say. I know this for certain and will certainly not stand by whilst a certain journal prints certain allegations. Yours, U.N. Certain.

Your eyes deceive you. Ours don't, though. Here is yet another. djt

Dear Sir I am amazed by the recent trend in the Albion to pour scorn and seditious dissent on the poop unprotected head of that great patriot Malcolm Watson why is it that everyone considers him to be descending upon them when truth to tell they all love his company as a psychiatrist of long standing I can only assume that these people really think he is wonderful and marvellous but don't like to admit it I can only suggest they ring me for an appointment so that I can straighten them out. Yours, H.S. de Gaul.

Well well well how can that be here comes another oh dear dear me. djt

Dear Sir, I am writing to clarify a few points raised in a recent issue of Albion concerning the assembly of a wargames room in my bedroom. I would like everyone to know that

Malcolm Watson did not impose his wargames upon me but in fact I begged him to instal his metal masterpiece. This great feat of engineering now stands proudly in the corner of my bedroom; the Dexion Mark 3 has become a great tourist attraction in the area. Furthermore my wife and I have not been turned out of our bedroom. We are permitted to sleep on top of the Mark 3. Yours, Ted White Esq.

Ha - we can place him too - Pat's father, and as biased against Malcolm as anyone else I would care to shake by the hand. Unfortunately it doesn't even stop here. djt

Dear Sahib Turnbull, Oh most illustrious scribe of the most magnificent mouthpiece of the world both Muslim and Infidel, it is with great sorrow that I put quill to papyrus to lodge a most bitter complaint against the present policy of Albion. For many moons now my eldest son has travelled between Baghdad and St. George's Avenue, to keep me supplied with your most magnificent literature. Many is the time I have boiled him in oil for being late with delivery. I therefore feel it is my right to bring your most esteemed self to task for the present hate campaign, sponsored by your paper, against Malcolm the Innocent.

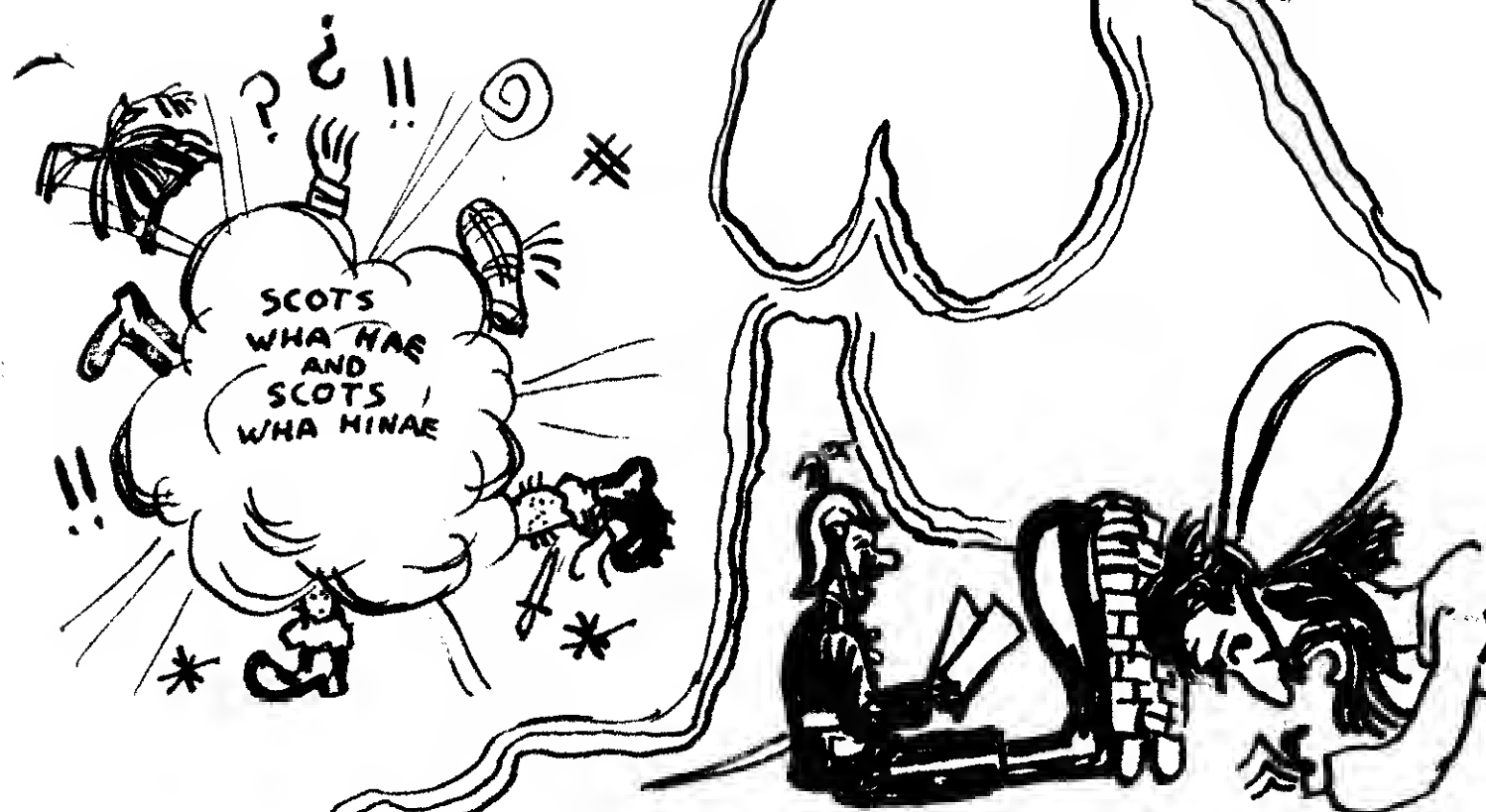
I am for many years being familiar with this illustrious limb of Allah who is all good, and do not comprehend why so many misinformed people should attack his Person with the scathing word. Why, only the other year I am seeing him help an old lady across a most busy camel track - how then can it be like others say? Let not the Albion offices be used for spreading such dromedary dung as has already been strewn; welcome into your tents the disciple of Allah; feast him on you finest sheeps' eyes, and let not the false words of others turn you against Malcolm the Awaited. Your most interested reader, Calif Ali de Gaul.

Pat will be glad to hear of the familiarity noted in the second paragraph.... Wonder who awaits him - I certainly don't. Glad this lot has come to an end. djt

xx

This issue of ALBION has at least been notable for one thing - the idiotic level of its letters (those signed anonymously, that is, if such a thing is possible). I think Caliph Ali de Gaul and Bob Elliot compete strongly for the prize.

One interesting thing, before drawing to a close. Recently I came across an advertisement for Diplomacy, which had been inserted in a copy of the HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLES, asking 'would you have won the great war?' and going on to describe the game in rough outline. I beg to announce that ALBION is stepping in on this affair as far as is possible and I will be writing to BPC Ltd. (the publishers) after this issue is complete. Hopefully this will result in vast increases in ALBION sales. We might even get more players for 69/3 and any other games which might be starting. See you next time.



RUSSIA BATTERS
HER HEAD ON
A BRICK WALL



ITALY
REDUCES
ARMED
FORCES



TURKISH FORCES DRIVEN OUT OF TUNIS